

(Continued from page 1)

sops that the capitalist class is throwing to the workers to make them think they are moving toward greater freedom. As though the referendum would do any good with the capitalist and his fish in control.

The next meetings were at Stevensville. The band here is small, but it is composed of as earnest workers as there are in the state. Every man is a good man and keeps up his end of the movement. The meetings here were also very encouraging.

Missoula really carried the banner, if such could be said of any one point, in regard to enthusiasm, numbers and doing things right up to the top notch. The Missoula people are making the fakirs quake.

At this writing there remains but Anaconda on the state route. Never before in my experience have the people shown such desire to hear the Socialist doctrines. The crowds have been uniformly excellent. The plan of the state committee to have the work done without expense to the state, but as a source of revenue, has been universally concurred in, and in most places the collections left extra money in the hands of the locals.

With every Socialist doing his best, our gains bid fair to be immense this year.

IDA CROUCH-HAZLETT.

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MIXED	PASSENG'R	Passenger	Mixed
Mondays	Tuesdays	Mondays	Tuesdays
Wednesdays	Thursdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
Fridays	Saturdays	Fridays	Saturdays
Lve 8:00 a. m.	Lve 9:50 a. m.	Lve 12:37 p. m.	Lve 5:30 p. m.
Arr 12:01 p. m.	Arr 12:30 p. m.	Lve 12:12 p. m.	Lve 2:00 p. m.
Lve 12:55	Lve 12:55	Arr 11:18	Arr 12:35
2:27	2:00	10:56 a. m.	12:00 Noon
3:07	2:26	10:29	11:20 a. m.
3:47	2:53	10:00	10:45
4:27	3:24	9:28	9:30
5:25	4:40	7:52	8:35
6:45	5:26	7:00	7:30
Arr 8:30	Arr 6:17		

RICHARD A. HARLOW, President

Helena, Montana

A Few Reasons Why

I am a Socialist.

When one or several individuals, men or women of brains and conscience look at their surroundings and prevailing conditions and become dissatisfied with the imperfections and the injustice that prevails, turning their vision into the future the improved tomorrow, they have generally been met with ridicule or hostile criticism and often with contempt and hatred. Men have walked the path of duty without a thought of reward; living a joyless life, scorned by their contemporaries, lives that the world called a failure, but history has recorded as a success. Almost every improvement that we enjoy today, socially or otherwise, our civilization in short, is the combined results of the faithful workers of the past, the once hated benefactors of the human race. And history repeats itself. It is so difficult for the shallow minded of today to see in the every day agitator or the "crank" a reformer, the man who plants the seed of progress, the torch bearer of civilization, the creator of new facts for the betterment of the future which we and our descendants are to reap the benefit.

Thus we see the enemies against the new era, shooting their poisoned arrows of slander and lies against the movement of Socialists in the vain attempts to associate truth and strangle justice. It is a remarkable fact that people who have never read a line on the subject or never spent five minutes in a thoughtful consideration of Socialism, feel themselves qualified to give their opinion about something that they know absolutely nothing. They condemn Socialism without knowing what they are condemning, presenting their absurd views as sober arguments. Now I would like to turn the searchlight of truth on some of these so called arguments and give a few reasons why I am a Socialist. My first reason is that I am absolutely opposed to dividing up the wealth that has been produced or is being produced whether it be in equal or unequal shares. Yet this is what men are being forced to do today. Is there any justice in the fact that one person who is a producer and creates wealth being compelled to divide up with the gentleman spectator who comes forward and demands almost all of it. The code that calls this justice is hardly the code of honest men. Now for instance, labor produces an article of use or comfort, say a hat cut after it is produced; strange enough it belongs to somebody else. The laborer says, I need one of them and would like to have one. Very well, says the other gentleman, you make me ten of them and I'll graciously give you one for your trouble. Now this is substantially the dividing process of the present system and what is the logical result. That on one side the surplus grows while on the other side want is increasing. Any one who is able to add 2 and 2 must see that. Now the old party politicians and all lovers of graft generally true to their old instincts of lying, have industriously circulated the report that the Socialists advocate dividing everything up. Even that if it was true would be a vast improvement on what is taking place now every day. The only sensible division, however, which the Socialist would bring about would be in dividing up the work of the world and equalize it thus laying a small share on every person's shoulder, which would bring about more happiness and contentment generally. In other times there is too much work for some and none for others. Brains and muscle are either worn out, slaved to death or rusting away in voluntary or enforced idleness, breeding unhappiness and crime. Who is advocating an unfair division? The Socialist who believes that if a man produces something it belongs to him, or some gentleman who rests in the shadow of ease and luxury and demands all? Now another thing that I do not believe in is anarchy, and the present system is certainly nothing but financial anarchy, where the strong and the cunning trample upon the weak and swindle the confiding. The world be-

longs to him who can successfully outwit his less shrewd fellows.

Formerly every man's hand was raised against his neighbor. This has changed. Today every man's mind is raised against his neighbor and used as a weapon to carry off the price, it matters not how much poverty, unhappiness or despair is inflicted. It is a war of minds for the purpose of appropriation of what either somebody has produced or succeed to get away from a third person. As a consequence the art of skillful appropriation, speculation or peculation are carried out on a scientific scale that study and practice alone can give; and human conception of justice are so distorted that crime becomes honorable. Great misfortunes like the Iroquois theater fire or the burning of the General Slocum are the direct results of the present financial anarchy, as are also 95 per cent of all other crimes. The demon of greed, enthroned on the pedestal of ignorance, is mocking the human race struggling in a dark valley of despair. The present system of competition is wasteful as well as immoral; instead of fighting each other we should subdue and utilize the forces of nature and make this world fit to live in. Nature's Sphinx will never give up its secret until a co-operative system has taken the place of the unscrupulous and disorderly competitive system. Under the strife of the present, truth is a folly and generosity a mistake. Good character should be a keystone or a beacon light to success instead of a detriment. Let decent people have the best there is in life just for a change! The Socialist party stands absolutely for the sacredness of property, advocating that every man should acquire a title to what he owns by earning it instead of taking it from somebody else. The initiative and referendum are two measures that are earnestly advocated and practiced in the Socialist party. These two measures, when brought into general use will make this a real republic and dethrone that juggling humbug, the professional politician as we have him today. Our present representative system has a monarchical principle caked into it, a relic from the past. We delegate our power to a set of men who are to act for us and very often betray us. Instead of one king, we have several on a small scale. They are easily bought or corrupted through appeals to personal prejudices and become pliant tools for corporations or persons with an ax or two to grind. They have been known to leave their transoms open to accommodate lucky "windfalls." Of course the initiative and the referendum are vigorously opposed by the old parties (who would lose golden opportunities), opposed for the same reasons that a "shell game" professor or a burglar has against the sheriff. Another of these bright arguments from the old school is the assertion that grafting in political and public life would be as bad if not worse under Socialism because the same people would still be here. They are simply deserters from the other parties. This is a hollow talk destitute of logic. Socialism aims to abolish the opportunity as well as the necessity for graft. Supposing a slave holder had told an abolitionist that there would be more slaves held when his party got into power and carried out its principles, would it not have evoked a smile and some astonishment? Yet we are accused of trying to practice something that we intend to do away with. Another foolish objection is that Socialism is an experiment. Show any political move that was not an experiment! Or anything else for that matter! What would we have today if we had refused experiments! How about the American republic, the abolition of slavery, or even the republican party? Does it claim that it never was launched as an experiment? Well, I have given you a few of my reasons for being a Socialist, and taken up your time, and I thank you for the attention and space.

The Mine Has Closed

Storrs, Mont., Aug. 29, 1904.
J. H. Walsh.

Sir: I received a letter from Mr. Lynch the other day and have lost it and have forgotten his first name; so write you the camp has shut down and there is no chance to sell the cards left with me. I have done and am doing and will do all that I can for the cause, but have to keep the wolf from my own door first. If the camp starts up will try and sell them. As ever yours,
DOC MONROE.

McHugh Is All Right

Anaconda, Aug. 27.

Comrade Walsh: Yours of the 25th at hand. I am broke myself just now, but will send you \$10 next month about the 7th, when I get my \$83.33 from this bourgeois government. The ruling class pays me this for helping to keep the proletariat in subjection. If the working class would once understand that the ruling classes of this age, like the ruling classes of previous ages, are using the government to keep the workers in subjection, there would be a change in the government. The exploiter of today—the capitalist—needs more police, more soldiers, more judges, etc., than did the feudal barons or slave owners. Yours for economic as well as political freedom,
C. C. M'HUGH.

P. S.—Lynch asked for a "Blue Card" for reproduction. I never saw one. They did not hand many out. They were not regular size or shape, just torn off and a number marked on them and hung on the peg where the brass checks hung.
C. C. M.

Butte Local No. 1, Socialist Party, meets every Monday, 8 p. m., at 121 North Main street, in main hall. Butte Women's Socialist Guild meets at same time and place, in front hall.

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THE REFERENDUM

E. B. Ford, Editor.

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